

# **DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

## **INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

TITLE 13, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, DIVISION 2, CHAPTER 2  
AMEND ARTICLE 22, SECTIONS 811-818

### **LIGHTING EQUIPMENT - WARNING LAMPS (CHP-R-01-02)**

#### **PURPOSE OF REGULATIONS AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

Section 26103 of the California Vehicle Code (VC) authorizes the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to adopt regulations establishing standards and specifications for, among other items, lighting equipment. Standards for warning lamps for emergency vehicles and special hazard vehicles are contained in Sections 810 through 818, Title 13, California Code of Regulations (13 CCR).

The current standards refer to specific technologies utilized in lighting devices. These specific technologies were intended to be descriptive of the type of lighting device to which the standards applied and were representative of the types of lighting devices available and in common usage at the time the standards were adopted.

Lighting technology has progressed in recent years, and a number of additional technologies have been successfully employed in lighting devices. Often the newer technologies offer increased performance, efficiency and reliability in comparison with older technologies.

It is not the CHP's intent to limit the technology utilized in lighting devices. The CHP's sole intention in classifying lighting devices by technology employed was to group lighting devices together for the purpose of promulgating reasonable and meaningful standards for the various types of lighting devices available at that time.

The CHP now proposes to amend these standards to clarify that they apply to all warning lamps, regardless of technology employed, and that any suitable technology may be employed in such lamps provided the applicable standards are met. This proposed amendment merely codifies existing CHP policy and does not make any changes to the standards themselves.

Additionally, the CHP proposes to amend the standards for warning lamps for undercover cars. Currently, regulations specify requirements for the required steady red warning lamp. This proposal will add requirements for optional red, amber and blue warning lamps for such vehicles.

The CHP also proposes to make other clarifying and non substantive changes.

## **SECTION BY SECTION OVERVIEW**

### **811. Definitions.**

Existing subsections are amended to clarify the intent of the standards and to eliminate references to specific lighting technologies. A new subsection is added to provide a definition of “light source.”

### **813. General Requirements.**

This section is amended to clarify the intent of the standards and to eliminate reference to specific lighting technologies.

### **815. Temperature and Durability Test Requirements.**

This section is amended to clarify the intent of the standards and to eliminate reference to specific lighting technologies.

### **§817. Applicability. Photometric Test Requirements.**

Existing subsections are amended to clarify the intent of the standards and to eliminate references to specific lighting technologies. A subsection is added to specifically state that the standards shall not be construed to prohibit the use of alternative technologies provided the appropriate photometric requirements for the type of lamp are met.

### **§818. Type of Warning Lamps Used on Emergency Vehicles and Special Hazard Vehicles.**

Existing subsection (g) is amended to specify photometric requirements for additional warning lamps on undercover cars.

**Title for Table 1.** The title for Table 1 is amended to eliminate references to specific lighting technologies.

## **STUDIES/RELATED FACTS**

None.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The CHP has not identified any alternative, including the no action alternative, that would be more effective and less burdensome for the purpose for which this action is proposed. Additionally, the CHP has not identified any alternative which would be as effective and less burdensome to affected persons other than the action being proposed.

*Alternatives Identified and Reviewed*

1. Make no changes to the existing regulations. This alternative was rejected because it fails to specifically accommodate newer technologies, and fails to address the needs of undercover cars.

### **LOCAL MANDATE**

These regulations do not impose any new mandate on local agencies or school districts.

### **ECONOMIC IMPACT ON BUSINESS**

The CHP has not identified any significant adverse impact on businesses.

### **FISCAL IMPACT TO THE STATE**

The Department has determined these regulation amendments will result in:

- No significant increased costs for owners or operators of emergency vehicles. This rulemaking action will simply codify existing policy and may result in lower costs;
- No significant compliance cost for persons or businesses directly affected;
- No discernible adverse impact on the quantity and distribution of goods and services to large and small businesses or the public;
- No impact on the level of employment in the state; and
- No impact on the competitiveness of this state to retain businesses, as state, provincial and national governments throughout North America have already adopted these requirements.